

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on September 28, 2004.

Claim 5 is canceled; as a result claims 1, 7, and 14 are amended; as a result, claims 1-4 and 6-20 are now pending in this application. Applicants respectfully request the entry of amendments to claims 1, 7, and 14; since Applicants do not believe that these amendments necessitate a new search and since these amendments are done to place the present application in condition for allowance. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner permit the entry of the amendments to claims 1, 7, and 14.

Objection to the Specification

The Examiner appears to have objected to claim 5 on the basis that it does not provide the proper antecedent basis in the specification. Claim 5 has been canceled; therefore, the specification rejection is no longer appropriate and should be withdrawn.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-4 and 6-13 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ferrel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,860,073). It is fundamental that in order to sustain an anticipation rejection that each and every step in the rejected claims must be taught or suggested in the cited reference. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 7.

Ferrel is directed to modifying the layout of a same data format. That is, Ferrel teaches altering a layout definition to change the appearance of a same data format from one layout to another or different layout. Ferrel does not teach converting to translating from a first input format to a second output format, where the input format is different from the output format. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 7 to now clearly and positively recite that the input format is different from the output format. Thus, Ferrel cannot be said to anticipate Applicants' amended independent claims 1 and 7.

Moreover, Applicants would like to point out that even if translating between different formats is available in the industry. These conversions cannot simply be added to the teachings of Ferrel because Ferrel is dependent on the input format that it manipulates. Stated another

way, it is not obvious how Ferrel could also alter the formats while altering layouts, since the layout translations in Ferrel are dependent on a specific data input format.

One of ordinary skill in the art would not know how to alter the layout of an entirely new data format with the teachings presented in Ferrel because the presentation layout of one data format is different and may not map to a different data format. Thus, Applicants respectfully disagree that Ferrel can be modified with a standard conversion application because to do so would require a complicated style conversion since Ferrel is directed to altering layouts in documents of the same format. Thus, input formats which are dependent on presentation would require complicated mappings to presentation of different output formats because the very purpose of Ferrel is to alter the layout by modifying the presentation formatting commands of a given input data format.

A standard conversion application would not integrate into the teachings of Ferrel. This is so, because Ferrel permits an existing presentation of a certain data format to be edited or modified to create an entirely new presentation layout for that certain data format. A standard conversion utility would not assist or automatically integrate into Ferrel because when a user edited a layout for a given data format with a different layout (the teachings of Ferrel), the edited layout changes could not simply be applied to a new data format via a conversion utility. Ferrel models the presentation of a defined or same data format for purposes permitting users to generically edit presentations to get new layouts for the same data format. In order to get new layouts for new data formats from old data formats with old data layout definitions, then Ferrel would necessarily have to divorce each presentation layout from each possible data format and then map each presentation layout between all the possible data formats and their unique presentation formatting commands. This would have to be in addition to a standard conversion utility, since a standard conversion utility may not and often does not maintain presentation and does not map between disparate formatting commands.

Therefore, Applicants assert that Ferrel does not anticipate and does not render obvious Applicants amended claims 1 and 7.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 5 and 14-18 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferrel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,860,073). To sustain an obviousness rejection each and every

step in the rejected claims must be taught or suggested in the cited reference or any proposed combination of references.

With respect to the rejection of claim 5, this claim has been canceled; thus, the rejection with respect to claim 5 is no longer appropriate.

With respect to Applicants' amended independent claim 14, this claim now positively recites an input format that is different from the output format. Again, Ferrel does not divorce and model presentation commands between different data formats. As a result, a simple conversion from one format to a different format can not be integrated into the teachings of Ferrel without excessive (undue) mapping and modeling. Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been able to simply plug-and-play a conversion utility because the core teachings of Ferrel would not have been operational, without significant (undue) additional teachings that are not present in Ferrel.

Therefore, Ferrel does not render Applicants' amended independent claim 14 obvious and the rejection should be withdrawn and claim 14 allowed.

Claims 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferrel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,860,073), in view of Cuan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,503,515). Claims 19 and 20 are dependent from independent claim 14. Thus, for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 14, the rejections with respect to claims 19 and 20 should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' attorney (513) 942-0224 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

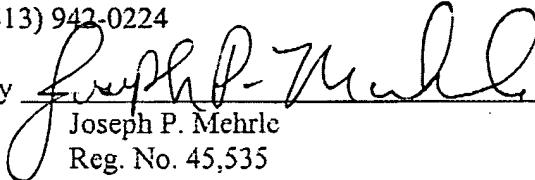
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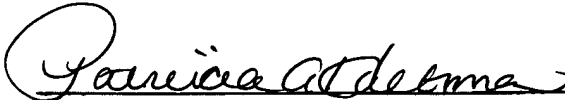
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 29th day of November, 2004.

PATRICIA A. HULTMAN

Name



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